·DOCKET NO.: 303314.01 / MSFT-1701
Application No.: 09/289,513
Office Action Dated: December 17, 2003

PATENT
REPLY FILED UNDER EXPEDITED
PROCEDURE PURSUANT TO
37 CFR § 1.116

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-50. cancelled.

51.   (new) A method for conducting electronic commerce through a computer network, the method comprising:

receiving, in a merchant computer system of the computer network from a buyer computer system, a purchase request for a digital product;

receiving payment data in the merchant computer system wherein the payment data specifies remuneration for the digital product;

sending a request for reservation of the digital product directly to a content manager computer system such that the request for reservation does not pass through the buyer computer system, the content manager computer system being a computer system which can be different from the merchant computer system and which is coupled to the merchant computer system through the computer network;

receiving, in the content manager computer system, a delivery request signal from the merchant computer system wherein the delivery request signal requests delivery of the digital product through the computer network to a client computer system which can be different from the buyer computer system;

sending transaction identification data to the client computer system wherein the transaction identification data identifies the digital product and represents remuneration in accordance with the payment data;

receiving, in a delivery computer system of the computer network, the transaction identification data from the client computer system;

determining within the delivery computer system, in accordance with the transaction identification data, the digital product; and

sending, from the delivery computer system, the digital product to the client computer system.

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52. (new) The method of Claim 51 further comprising:

sending, from the delivery computer system to the content manager computer system, a signal indicating that sending the digital product to the client computer system is completed.

53. (new) The method of Claim 51 wherein sending the digital product from the delivery computer system to the client computer system comprises:

creating a new encrypting key which is intended to be used only once;

encrypting the digital product with the new encryption key to form an encrypted digital product;

sending the encrypted digital product to the client computer system;

decrypting the encrypted digital product within the client computer system to recover the digital product; and

discarding the new encryption key.

54. (new) The method of Claim 51 wherein requesting reservation by the merchant computer system comprises:

encrypting data representing a requested reservation;

sending the data as encrypted to the content manager computer system; and

decrypting the data within the content manager computer system.

55. (new) The method of Claim 51 wherein, in response to requesting reservation by the merchant computer system, the content manager computer system effects such a reservation of the digital product by:

forming transaction data which include (i) the transaction identification data, (ii) product identification data which identifies the digital product, and (iii) binding data which binds the transaction to the client computer system; and

sending the transaction data to the merchant computer system.

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56.   (new) The method of Claim 51 wherein the delivery request signal includes the transaction identification data.

57.   (new) The method of Claim 51 wherein the transaction identification data, as received by the delivery computer system is certified as originating from the client computer system.

58.   (new) A method for conducting electronic commerce through a computer network, the method comprising:

receiving, in a merchant computer system of the computer network, a purchase request for a digital product;

receiving payment data in the merchant computer system wherein the payment data specifies remuneration for the digital product;

sending a request for reservation of the digital product to a content manager computer system which is different from the merchant computer system and which is coupled to the merchant computer system through the computer network;

receiving, in the content manager computer system, a delivery request signal from the merchant computer system wherein the delivery request signal requests delivery of the digital product to a client computer system through the computer network;

sending transaction identification data from the content manager computer system to the client computer system, wherein the transaction identification data identifies the digital product and represents remuneration in accordance with the payment data;

receiving, in a delivery computer system of the computer network, the transaction identification data from the client computer system;

determining within the delivery computer system, in accordance with the transaction identification data, the digital product; and

sending, from the delivery computer system, the digital product to the client computer system.

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59.   (new) The method of Claim 58 further comprising:

sending, from the delivery computer system to the content manager computer system, a signal indicating that sending the digital product to the client computer system is completed.

60.   (new) The method of Claim 58 wherein sending the digital product from the delivery computer system to the client computer system comprises:

creating a new encrypting key which is intended to be used only once;

encrypting the digital product with the new encryption key to form an encrypted digital product;

sending the encrypted digital product to the client computer system;

decrypting the encrypted digital product within the client computer system to recover the digital product; and

discarding the new encryption key.

61.   (new) The method of Claim 58 wherein requesting reservation by the merchant computer system comprises:

encrypting data representing a requested reservation;

sending the data as encrypted to the content manager computer system; and

decrypting the data within the content manager computer system.

62.   (new) The method of Claim 58 wherein, in response to requesting reservation by the merchant computer system, the content manager computer system effects such a reservation of the digital product by:

forming transaction data which include (i) the transaction identification data, (ii) product identification data which identifies the digital product, and (iii) binding data which binds the transaction to the client computer system; and

sending the transaction data to the merchant computer system.

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63.   (new) The method of Claim 58 wherein the delivery request signal includes the transaction identification data.

64.   (new) The method of Claim 58 wherein the transaction identification data, as received by the delivery computer system is certified as originating from the client computer system.

65.   (new) A method for conducting electronic commerce through a computer network, the method comprising:

receiving, in a merchant computer system of the computer network from a buyer computer system, a purchase request for a digital product;

receiving payment data in the merchant computer system wherein the payment data specifies remuneration for the digital product;

sending a request for reservation of the digital product directly to a content manager computer system such that the request for reservation does not pass through the buyer computer system, the content manager computer system being a computer system which can be different from the merchant computer system and which is coupled to the merchant computer system through the computer network;

receiving, from the content manager computer system, voucher data which is readable by the content manager computer system and which represents to the content manager computer system a transaction in which the remuneration specified by the payment data is exchanged for the digital product.

66.   (new) The method of Claim 65 further comprising:

receiving, from the content manager computer system, inventory data which specifies available digital products, including the digital product, and specified remuneration to the content manager computer system for each of the available digital products.

67.   (new) The method of Claim 66 wherein requesting reservation comprises:

encrypting data representing a requested reservation;

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sending the data as encrypted to the content manager computer system;

and

decrypting the data within the content manager computer system.

68.   (new) The method of Claim 66 further comprising:

sending, from the merchant computer system, the payment data to a

payment authority; and

receiving, in the merchant computer system from the payment

authority, payment authorization data.

69.   (new) The method of Claim 68 further comprising:

sending the payment authorization data to the content manager

computer system.

70.   (new) The method of Claim 69 wherein sending the payment authorization

data comprises:

encrypting the payment authorization data.